Meeting Opened at 2:30 p.m. in 110/112.

Mitch Pietras, President, began the session by asking for approval of the minutes from our last meeting, and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded, and a unanimous vote was passed.

Mitch announced that Dr. Eaton will be present at the March 5th meeting instead of today because she had obligations in Tallahassee.

The Treasurer’s Report was passed over because the Treasurer would be late.

Dustin Weeks spoke about the Faculty Senate Reorganization Committee. The faculty formed the committee in the summer to look at the possibility of reorganization and to see what other colleges are doing. Research was done to identify key issues with reorganizations and possible structures. To get the feedback of all faculty, a survey was developed and deployed to get input on key issues. The feedback was incorporated into the draft of this proposal. See Attachment (Faculty Reorganization Proposal) submitted with these minutes. If this proposal is accepted today, it would be forwarded on to the Bylaws Committee to draft bylaws which correspond with this organizational structure change. The Bylaws would be presented publically to all faculty for 30 days, and then a faculty-wide vote would be taken to determine if this Faculty Senate Reorganization would move forward. A vote here today only signifies consensus to move this forward to the Bylaws Committee. We are here today to answer questions.

Structure and makeup of the Committee was discussed in detail (see attachment). Presidential Duties would remain as they are now, and the President would be elected along with the Senators. All Senators would designate an alternate who could attend meetings in their stead should they be unable to attend a meeting. The proposed structure gives voting authority to Senators so that there is clout to decisions made by the group. However, we still want faculty to have input on widespread issues which affect faculty at large, so voting for such issues with all faculty involved would continue.

A request was made to re-look at the possibility that Chairs (of departments) not be able to serve as Senators so that the governance wouldn’t be too top-heavy.

A suggestion was also made that they bylaws include language about the relationship between the President’s duties being parallel to the Senate’s decisions, meaning that the President be bound by decisions voted on by the Senate. Right now, there is no explicit language in our bylaws to this affect; it is merely implied that the President would carry out senate’s wishes.

A Motion was made to endorse the Faculty Senate Reorganization Proposal.

Discussion after the motion was made referenced the fact that only 10 present Senators were necessary to make a vote. So, further discussion suggested that bylaws include language that require attendance
by Senators at all of the meetings (or that Alternates attend in their absence) and that there be consequences for non-attendance of FS meetings by Senators.

The motion was then seconded, and a vote was taken with unanimous approval of support.

Sarah Desormeaux spoke on behalf of the Teaching and Learning Committee and announced that they are seeking faculty to serve on their committee to work on researching and drafting the procedures for online coursework.

Alice Godby spoke on behalf of the Senior Professors to announce that they will be doing horseback riding, hopefully, next week and that a SP meeting will be held tomorrow, 2/6/13 at 3:30 in 200/403.

Richard Tamburro spoke on behalf of the College Connections Committee to announce they are up under the “Teaching and Learning” Committee of Cabinet. Therefore, he would like to start a “Faculty Outreach Committee” to find out what outreach activities are being done by our faculty and document this service learning for the College.

A motion was made to establish a Faculty Outreach Committee. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.

Michael Flota, attending via Adobe Connect, stated that the Pilot Continuing Contract Program is still moving forward wherein all committees of three have completed their work with the candidates. Departments are now voting, and the Chairs of each department will write letters of support with their recommendations, which will be completed by February 15 and sent on to the Pilot College-wide committee for final approval.

OLD BUSINESS:
Comments were made that Florida Online is still extremely slow and experiencing problems for faculty. Students are frustrated, and it is affecting our retention. Mitch indicated that he would take this forward to Dr. Vitale and try to get our new online learning Dean involved.

Please send Mitch emails regarding any technical issues that you are experiencing.

A question was raised to the status of the smoking policy, and it was answered that this issue is not moving forward for now.

A faculty member posed a question asking why we are no longer conducting upward evaluations to evaluate our supervisors and administrators. The discussion concluded that no one really knew why that practice ceased.

Therefore a motion was made that we establish upward evaluations of our supervisors and/or administrators. The recommendation was made to amend the motion. The motion was then amended to state that we re-instate upward evaluations to review our supervisors and administrators. Motion was seconded, and a vote was taken yielding a unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
PRESIDENT’S REPORT:
Mitch reports on what we are doing to Cabinet, and he will meet with Dr. Vitale this Thursday, and he meets with him once per month. Every Board meeting includes a mention of the “Faculty of the Month”, who also get a certificate to display. Please attend Board meetings if you can to support our faculty.

There was a special meeting held in January to discuss the Gen Ed Requirements, and it was highly attended, and the information was gathered and presented forward to Dr. Vitale, along with the feedback from Dr. Rivers.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The next Faculty Senate Meeting is scheduled at 2:30-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in building 110, room 112, and Dr. Eaton will be the featured speaker. We hope to see you there.

sgd